

State of the City Address

Honorable City Council, staff members and citizens, I consider it an honor and a privilege to serve as Mayor of Grantsville City and to have the opportunity to reflect over the past year and deliver this message.

Although we've walked through one of the most challenging periods in our city's history, we're going to do the best we can with the limited resources we have available to us.

In the 2012 Utah State Legislative session, Grantsville City was instrumental in changes to the laws concerning spice and bath salts. With the help of Representative Ray, two bills were passed which made these products illegal to use or possess.

Grantsville City took action by passing an ordinance which established regulations regarding the location of a tobacco specialty store. The new House bills and this ordinance led to the closing of a tobacco specialty store for selling illegal items. Grantsville City was out in front on this issue and was one of the first governmental bodies to take such actions. Many cities have followed our lead by closing tobacco stores of their own, passing ordinances in accord with the City's, and enforcing the state laws.

In 2012, we broke ground on the new Grantsville City Library. The library is beautiful and a powerful addition to our community. Our most important collection of talents lies in our young people. Libraries are finding new ways to use technology to gain efficiencies, improve and bridge the digital divide in their communities. The more global the world becomes, the more important it will be for libraries to be places where people can come for information and access the technology. We are making an investment in our community and the library will open to the public in early spring.

Our street project for 2012 was Hale Street. This street was completed and appeared to be structurally sound, but through our frigid cold temperatures this winter we have had some problems with the structural integrity of the asphalt. These problems are being addressed and will be repaired as soon as the weather permits and the street will be re-evaluated by the engineering firm for reliability. We still have retention money from the project and will make sure the street is repaired.

I happily report that Grantsville City's financial position has continued to improve. We are poised, primed and our momentum is strong. We will continue to monitor our expenses and be financially conservative to ensure we receive the best possible price for the items that we purchase and are not wasteful. This is a very important responsibility, one not taken lightly, and is very challenging.

The Fourth of July has become our marquee event and in 2012 we did not disappoint. Our 4th of July celebration is second to none. Thousands of people come to the community to celebrate our nation's birthday. This event has become a much anticipated annual celebration and a reminder of what a close knit community Grantsville is. It is filled with activities which include a flag raising ceremony, parade, a car show, games and bouncy houses, food vendors, and Grantsville's talent showcase, concluding with a spectacular fireworks finale.

In 2012 we held our first annual Christmas Light Parade. The streets were lined up with spectators and those that participated in the parade had lots of fun. Spectators made many comments on

how the parade looked going down the road. We look forward to seeing this event grow over time and it becoming a part of the many Grantsville traditions.

The City will continue to work on economic development to help our economy. New businesses mean new jobs and new families. As the economy improves, companies will be willing to spend capital money on new facilities and the City is doing everything in its ability to ensure that they locate here. We will work with other government agencies to increase our chances of landing these new opportunities regardless of where they choose to locate in the valley.

We have many goals for the upcoming year: the Mountain Vista Park, the park-n-ride parking lot, infrastructure needs to our sewer line project to eliminate two lift stations, waterline projects, street preservation projects, opening of our library, cemetery extension being marked out for interments and many other projects. We want to grow by choice not by chance. Good things don't happen by accident, they happen because you prepare for success.

I would like to express my appreciation to the city staff for their dedication and service to the citizens of Grantsville. They work hard to make our community a better place to live and work. Our law enforcement is always there protecting our community. The Volunteer Fire Department responds whenever they are called protecting our community from fire and assisting with medical calls. Thank you to the employees of the city for all that you do. The Planning Commission spends hours conducting research, reviewing proposed land use changes and in meetings.

I would like to thank the maintenance crew. They perform their job usually under manned and without the luxury of the necessary equipment. Yet they never complain about what they don't have, focus on what they do have, and always get the job done. Without their diligent efforts, the City would not continue to function.

I would like to share my appreciation and admiration to the members of City Council. These individuals are some of the greatest people I know. They work hard towards our goals and always have the City's interest at heart. These are difficult and complicated times and the Council has met every challenge it has faced. There will be challenges ahead and difficult decisions to make but our record shows that we are up to the challenge. Henry Ford said "Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, and working together is success." I have no doubt we will achieve success.

Most importantly, I would like to say thank you to my loving wife, our two sons and their families for their unwavering love and support. I am proud of my family and want them to know that my accomplishments are their accomplishments as I could not do this without their encouragement and support.

I know the history we are writing together is not over, I know there will be exciting twists, some interesting characters, and we won't believe how good the ending will be. May God bless the citizens of this great community and God bless America.